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# The Alabamian

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## College Night kicks off with sign raising

By JASMYNE RAY and RYANN TAYLOR



Each side's sign give the audience a hint bout the plot of the shows for that year.

Katie Compton | The Alabamian

The College Night season was kicked into high gear on Thursday, Jan. 26 with the annual side sign reveal. Purple Side gathered around their sign shrouded in a tarp at 6 p.m. while gold Gold Side walked over from Palmer Auditorium; each side chanting

cheers full of side pride. Student Government Association (SGA) President Hunter Huie was the MC for the evening.

First to unveil their sign was Purple Side. As is customary with the College Night signs, the overall visual is meant to hint at the

plot of the show. An ode to Palmer Hall, the sign is fashioned as the building with four windows in each corner, a ladder connecting the bottom left and upper right windows with the theater masks representing comedy and tragedy shown in the middle. The bottom

left window features a cowboy hat on a coat rack and the upper right window shows a lone tiara on a table. But the pièce de résistance is the Alexander Shunnarah billboard featured in the background. The 2017 Gold Side Sign is a medievalist's dream come true.

Artistic Director Cameron Stewart designed a castle where Golds can insert themselves into a window of one of the two towers and open and close the castle gate. Stewart said, "I thought it would be more interesting than a two-dimensional piece of plywood," and that this was her original design concept. A medieval theme is fitting for College Night as well as Gold Side because of not only the violent Crusades that can be likened to the battle that is College Night itself, and the Gold Side Mascot, the Lion, can easily be seen as the emblem of the ruler Richard the Lionheart. The unveiling didn't necessarily go without a hitch. The revealers struggled to pull the tarp over the towering castle, slowly giving the enthusiastic Gold Side members glimpses into what their 2017 show would be. After the revelation of the 2017 cast, it is hard not to look at the window adjoining the interactive as a possible representation of four of the female cast members. However, after asking Stewart whether this was her intention she said that the women are, "characters, but not specific cast members." So the audience will be awaiting the reveal of the women's identities.

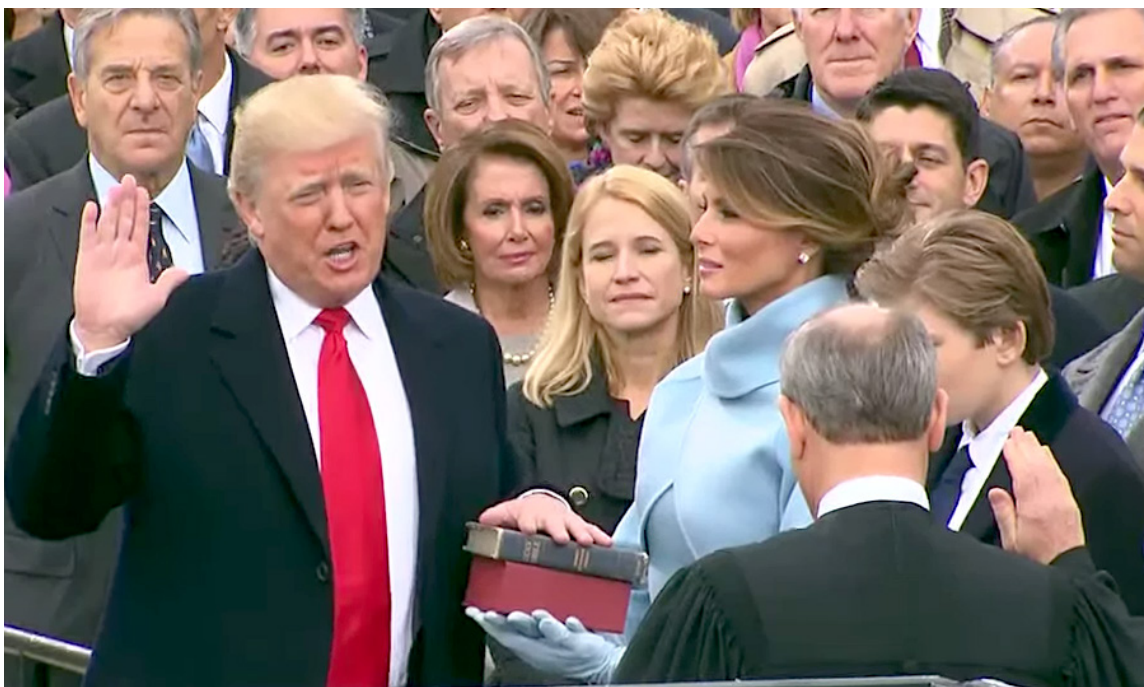
NEXT ISSUE: *College Night Edition!* CATCH ONE SATURDAY NIGHT!

## Inauguration day: Donald Trump takes office

By VANDY MYERS

On Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as the forty-fifth president of the United States. People filed into the National Mall amid the light sprinkles of rain during the ceremony. The steps up to the podium were decorated with draping American flags as attendees took their seats in the west yard of the U.S. Capitol building and in the building's terraces. Among the many high-profile attendees were the Clintons and the Obamas. The Missouri State University Choral sang "Now We Belong" moments before Vice President Pence was sworn in by Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court. The Vice President's inauguration was followed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir accompanied by the president's own United States Marine Band in their performance of "America the Beautiful." Trump was then sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. of the United States Supreme Court. This was succeeded by a traditional 21-gun salute. Trump's inauguration speech included a strong promise to return power from the government

to the people, and was highly reminiscent of his campaign speeches. He reinforced commitment to his previous campaign policies through repetition of previous stated plans regarding the economy, immigration policy, taxation and other platforms. Following Trump's speech, three speeches were given by Rabbi Marvin Heir, Bishop James Wane Jackson and Reverend Franklin Graham respectively. Then, accompanied by the United States Marine Band, Jackie Evancho performed her rendition of the national anthem. The inauguration was followed by the traditional departure ceremony of the former president. The Bidens departed first in the motorcade. Barack and Michelle Obama were escorted down the staircase of the U.S. Capitol building by the Trumps and the Pences amid handshakes and hugs of farewell exchanged between the three families. The Obamas boarded Marine One, ending the departure ceremony. Following this, Trump began signing a plethora of executive orders on air, including some of the official nominations for



Trump is sworn in by Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. in Washington, D.C.

By White House via Wikimedia Commons

his cabinet choices. Afterward, he attended the Statuary Hall luncheon, where he gave another short speech in which he thanked the Clintons, his generals, Roy

Blunt, Tom Barrack and everyone else in attendance. The celebration ended with the inaugural parade. The march included members of all five

military branches, the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America.

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My experience at the Women’s March

By KESHIA MCCLANTOC

When I first stepped off the bus and into the chilly Washington D.C. air, I had no idea what to expect. I had spent the last 12 hours on a bus full of over 30 women, some strangers and some not. Through the long bus ride we discussed the reason why we were marching. As the question made its way to me I really had no idea how to answer it. I only knew that I felt I had to do something that made me feel as though my voice mattered.

The Women’s March on Washington started as a grassroots efforts between a set of diverse women that soon expanded to sister marches that expanded across all seven continents. I was lucky enough to join the three buses that pulled out of Birmingham and join in with the thousands of others who marched on Jan. 21, 2017.

After we left the buses, we walked through the streets of Washington to conversion on the rally that started the march. As we walked we were greeted with shouts and car honks and people waving out of windows at us. Some people even stood on the side of the street, offering us snacks and kind words. Everyone was cheering us on and as I saw the crowds grow larger I could not hold in my excitement.

At the rally there were signs and cheering and accepting words from everyone. I saw women and



Millions of people joined the Women’s March, wielding various protest signs and posters.

Photo by Hannah Hurley

men from every walk of life. I talked to them, asked them where they were from, why they were marching and so much more. As I stood in the crowd cheering with these people I felt a connection and a collective power like I had never felt before.

There were a few hitches before the march began because more people had showed up than

the demonstrators had planned for. The march route that had been planned could no longer accommodate us and so we took to the streets of Washington, making sure our voices were heard on every avenue.

It was overwhelming and simultaneously thrilling. In many ways the march was a sensory overload, but not in a way that

was negative. So much was happening and so many people were there that I did not know what was happening half the time. I only knew that I was participating in something bigger than myself and I was making the first steps to the changes that I wanted to see. This was the reason why I marched.

More people than anyone ever

expected showed up to D.C. and to the sister marches around the world. The impact that we made that day and the impact that I felt from participating in the march is something that I will never forget and I am not going to let anything that I learned there stop now. This was just the first step in a movement I hope will continue to change the world.

GOODBYE 2016: LAST YEAR’S MEMORABLE MOMENTS

By PAITON LAMI

- 1.** Creepy clowns began to haunt and lure children into woods in South Carolina, soon to be spread all throughout the United States.

**2.** Disney released two blockbusters, “Moana” and “Zootopia,” both nominated for Golden Globes. Zootopia won.

**3.** Bees joined the Endangered Species list, which could lead to a terrible future for the fertilizing of our plants.
- 4.** The world was graced with more of the wizarding world with the release of the script a “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” and the prequel movie, “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.”

**5.** Global temperatures set a record high once again this year. If the global climate increased by one more degree, scientists claim it would be catastrophic.

**6.** The Chicago Cubs won the World Series for the first time since 1908.
- 7.** The United States was riddled with grief when a mass shooting erupted in Orlando, Fla. at Pulse, an LGBT nightclub. There were 49 people killed and 43 wounded.

**8.** “Hamilton” won a Pulitzer Prize for not only being one of the greatest musicals, but for also teaching others unheard history and great literature.

**9.** Iconic Deaths: David Bowie (69), Prince (57), Muhammad Ali (74), Carrie Fisher (60), Debbie Reynolds (84).
- 11.** A bill submitted to Congress expressing support to designate June as National Gun Violence Month was passed.

**12.** Hurricane Matthew became disastrous when it lead to record level flooding and killed hundreds in Haiti.

**13.** Harriet Tubman was chosen to replace Andrew Jackson on the 20 dollar bill, making her the first African-American to appear on paper money as well as the first woman in 100 years.
- 12.** Disputes over the continuation of the Dakota Access Pipeline became more heated as Indigenous people continued to protest in order to protect their sacred water source.

**13.** Pokemon GO! was released, became an instant hit, and reminded everyone of one of the happiest parts of our childhoods.

**14.** England voted to remove themselves from the European Union.

Top 5 Anticipated Games of 2017

By RIVER DOLAN

With every new year comes new games. Last year was great for gamers with smash hits like “Overwatch,” “Battlefield 1” and “Dark Souls III.” While there were a few games that didn’t exactly meet expectations (we’re looking at you, “No Man’s Sky”) the year was full of games that are going to be hard to live up to. So, what will 2017 bring to the table? Whether they can deliver on their hype is up to the players. Here are the top five games we’re looking forward to seeing this year.

**5. “For Honor”**  
Have you ever wanted to see a war for territory between Vikings, samurai and knights? “For Honor” couldn’t be cooler. Some games don’t need a complicated storyline, some games are just awesome in simplicity and concept. We all hope that “For Honor” delivers on its promise. **Release date: Feb. 14, 2017.**

**4. “Resident Evil 7: Biohazard”**  
Capcom has finally gotten it together and made the “Resident Evil” that gamers have been wanting. It follows Ethan Winters, a man who has just received an email from his wife who has been missing for three years. The email sends him to a horror movie setting waiting to happen in an old mansion in Louisiana. The story is cryptic, but what we know is that Ethan is trapped in the mansion



“The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” booth at E3 2016.

Photo by tofuprod, via Wikimedia Commons

with the Baker family. The game features a first-person point of view, a completely new engine called the RE engine specifically designed for Resident Evil and a horrific family visit from hell. **Release date: Jan. 24, 2017.**

**3. “Kingdom Hearts III”**  
After all this time, we’re finally getting a direct sequel to the smash hit “Kingdom Hearts II.” No more remixes, no more remastered versions and no more beating around the bush. The game’s E3 trailer was phenomenal and featured some new interesting mechanics, such as new forms for the key blade and Disney World-ride themed attacks. With new Disney worlds announced such as

“Tangled” and “Big Hero 6”, we all look forward to the final chapter in a long, fun, complicated saga. **Release date: TBA, 2017**

**2. “Mass Effect: Andromeda”**  
EA has brought out the big guns with the newest installment of one of their flagships series. You are put in the shoes of “The Pathfinder” instead of Commander Shepard this time around, and your job isn’t to fight off Reapers, rather it’s to find a new home for humanity. The game is set in a sprawling, explorable and beautifully rendered galaxy. New weapons, new powers, new vehicles and undoubtedly new, hilarious dialogue awaits. **Release date: March 21, 2017.**

**1. “Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild”**  
Nintendo is coming into the new year swinging with this breathtaking new “Legend of Zelda” game. The game has nodded to its predecessors but moves forward bravely and boldly. It is now an open world and has a fully interactive environment (people have never been more excited about burning grass). The game has left us all in wonder and anticipation, and if you watched the Switch conference, you got the exciting news that this game will be released alongside the Switch. The game is already pulling at the heartstrings as we see Zelda break down in tears - obviously this game is going to bring its players to tears as well. **Release date: March 3, 2017.**

The Alabamian

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# Falcon basketball opens 2017 with conference play

By ALEX TEJADA

In their final season in the Peach Belt, Montevallo basketball has opened the new year with a mixed start. Coach Danny Young’s team opened the new year with a win at Auburn-Montgomery before their first conference road tests. A dominating 74-49 win was overshadowed by a loss at Augusta.

The Falcons suffered two defeats in a row after a home loss to UNC Pembroke, but got back on track with wins over Georgia Southwestern and Flagler. A shocking MLK Day defeat at USC Aiken was remedied by an emphatic 13 point win over Young Harris. However, the Falcons road woes continued at Georgia College, where they lost by 14 and scored a season low 51 points.

The Falcons have two home games this upcoming weekend to get the season back on track before the final month of regular season play. North Georgia’s visit on Saturday is followed up by Clayton State’s arrival on Monday.

Montevallo will hope to see the return of leading scorer Javonte Douglas this weekend. In his absence, Jamaar Taylor has taken over the job of top scorer. In the UNC Pembroke game where Douglas was injured, Taylor amassed a season high of 32 points. Tazz Marbury has seen increased minutes and was the team’s leading scorer at Flagler, with 19 on the day. Freshmen Josh Brownfield and Micah Fuller have



The men’s basketball team cheers after one of their three wins so far in the season.

Courtesy of UM Athletics

seen increased minutes as the injuries piled up in early January. Talan Whitaker returned from an eye injury and has partnered well with Tighe Oberg in the front court. Kevin Kelly and Tony Bagtas have run the point, and their good ball control has led to a decrease in turnovers per game.

Coach Van Atta’s return to the helm of the women’s basketball team has been a tough learning curve. Montevallo has

picked up only one win since the turn of the year, a road win over Flagler. Despite the record of 4-13, the Falcons have seen big performances from upperclassmen. Jazmine Stubblefield has recorded two triple doubles in the month of January. Morgan Smith and Haven Albright have done the majority of the scoring, and D’Miyah Foster has been a spark off of the bench. In the absence of RayVon Christian, Alba Perez has

done the majority of the rebounding for Van Atta’s side. Freshmen Erykah Hall, Brittany Wood and Ashli Tyus have seen more playing time in the new year and have improved significantly over the course of the season. Van Atta’s squad welcomes North Georgia on Saturday before Clayton State comes to town on Monday.

The Falcons face six games in Feb. and will hope that two wins to end January will help jump-

start a late season resurgence. The men’s team have a record of 12-5 and will hope to host a Peach Belt quarterfinal game in their final season in the conference before moving to the Gulf South. Van Atta has made strides in turning around the women’s basketball program and will look to surprise some of the conference’s top teams before they also leave the Peach Belt.



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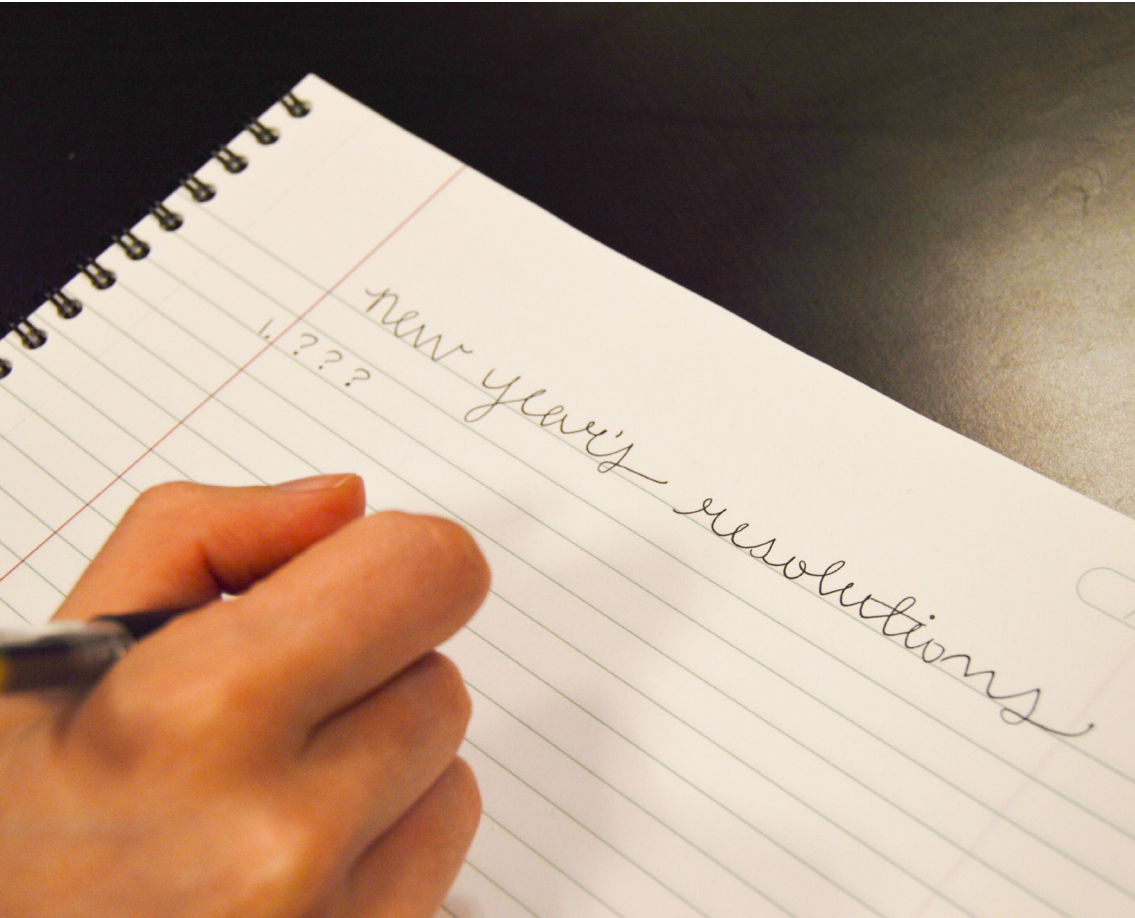
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# Unconventional New Year’s resolutions

By RYANN TAYLOR



Jasmyne Ray | The Alabamian

- Stop Googling my symptoms.
- Stop bringing my phone into the bathroom with me for entertainment. Or telling people I do it. One or the other.
- Only eat an entire pint of Ben & Jerry's when I deserve it. Getting out of bed doesn't count.
- Remember that the importance of destigmatizing UTIs and yeast infections is not an appropriate dinner conversation.
- Remember to put on deodorant. Every day.
- Stop saying you do a good Donald Trump impression. Because literally everyone can do a good Donald Trump impression.
- Stop Googling Peter Dinklage hoping he will suddenly be divorced. Because even if he gets a divorce you'll still have to wait until he stops with that vegan nonsense to make your move.
- Stop making fun of vegans. You would be one if you weren't so poor. And liked hot dogs so much.
- Stop rooting for Cersei in "Game of Thrones."
- Stop commenting on how bad soda is for you while your lunch companion is drinking it. This is why you have no friends.
- Stop guessing the plot at the start of a movie and telling your companion what your prediction is, and then gloat when you're right. This is another reason you have no friends.
- Send more Bitmojis to my parents so they know how I'm doing. Remember that fries and pizza do not constitute a healthy meal.
- Stop rolling your eyes when you overhear a stupid conversation because sometimes they do see you doing it.

# Tips for landing your dream internship

By JASMYNE RAY

It’s that time of year again. College students across the nation are sending in their resumes, waiting anxiously by their phones and ironing their suits all in pursuit of the perfect internship. A daunting task, but we’ve gathered some tips to make things easier.

### Research

The best place to begin your search for an internship is within your department. Check bulletin boards in the department’s office and even ask your professors for help. Websites like LinkedIn, Glassdoor and Internships.com are also great places to look.

### Resume

Even if you don’t have any prior job experience related to the position, things like being a member of SGA or UPC, orientation leader or other leadership roles on campus would be helpful. Keep the focus on your education and include any awards you’ve won as an added bonus. Your resume is your time to (humbly) brag on yourself. Also, if you ever need help with perfecting your resume, the Career Development Center is offers free assistance with resumes, cover letters and

even preparing for interviews.

### Interview

Whether it’s in person or over the phone, the interview is your time to show them why you would be a great addition to their team. Be sure to show what you can bring to their organization and not vice versa.

### Be early

Ever heard the phrase “The early bird gets the worm?” It definitely rings true in regards to internships. Being early shows that you’re ready and willing to learn, which your supervisor will appreciate greatly.

### Be professional

This isn’t to say that you have to be so uptight to where the internship won’t be enjoyable, but there’s a difference between relaxed and simply not caring.

You can joke around with your supervisor and coworkers, but just remember that you’re ultimately there to learn.

### Ask for feedback

Ultimately an internship is meant to be a learning experience, so it doesn’t hurt to check in with your supervisor and get a second opinion on your performance. Plus, it shows that you care about doing a good job.

### Send a thank you note

It’s one thing to just say thank you for the opportunity. Instead, opt for a handwritten thank you note. It’s more meaningful and leaves a lasting impression.

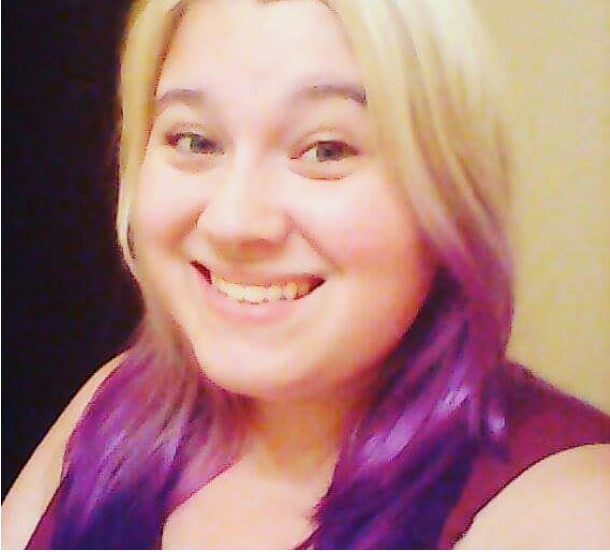


# The Hair Dye-aries: Product experiences

By PAITON LAMI



Lami has experimented with various hair dyeing products and colors over the years.



Photos courtesy of Paiton Lami

Since the eighth grade, I’ve been dyeing my hair. I knew everyone said, “Once you do it, you never can stop,” and eighth grade me just brushed it off, but it is very true. Once you drastically change your hair with dye, it will never really be the same as your natural hair was. Even now, with the brightest purple hair, when people ask me what my natural hair color is, I answer “I don’t know,” and it is the honest truth. I’ve always wanted to do more dramatic and artificial colors since I first started dyeing my hair, but my mom had one rule when it

came to it: Only natural colors. So I dyed my hair bright blonde for years, I even tried black once (let’s not talk about that). But I’ve always wanted to do purple. And the minute I graduated high school I knew I was free to do whatever I wanted. It started with the ends of my hair. I used Manic Panic hair dye because it was organic, very cheap, and supposedly had bright colors. I bought Violet Night for seven dollars at Sally’s Beauty Supply and couldn’t have been happier with the results. After just a few weeks though, it began to

dull. In the long run, even though this dye is the cheapest, it would add up after having to buy one after the other for upkeep. Once I came to college, I wanted to do all of my hair. I had no knowledge of how awful the dye Splat was. Since it’s still relatively cheap (nine dollars) and has the bleach included, and I was still broke, I went for it. I bought Purple Desire, available at any Wal-Mart. It looked pretty cool, but it really damaged my hair. My hair became super stringy, coarse and I hated even running my fingers through it. It also

oddly turned pink when it began to dull. Although cheap, I would never use Splat again for any reason. My all-time favorite hair dye I have ever used, I just did before the Spring semester started. I had seen a lot of posts and reviews on Facebook and Instagram for Arctic Fox Hair Color, available online. I purchased Girl’s Night and Purple Rain, for a purple ombre. Although a little on the expensive side, it is most definitely worth it. It’s vegan and they have very bright colors. Also, usually while rinsing out the dye the

water runs the color of the dye, but this one didn’t change the color of the water. This means the color of the dye sticks better than others. My hair feels great and I love the way it looks. Again, it’s more expensive, but it lasts longer and doesn’t damage your hair. Big thumbs up! There are always risks when dyeing your hair. Before you take the dive, do the research and make sure its worth the risk to you.



# Getting involved with Higher Education Day

By HUNTER HUIE, SGA President

My experience as a politically engaged college student has taught me that change occurs when people organize. No matter how quiet our individual voices may seem, we cannot help but be heard if we shout together. On Thursday, Feb. 23, we students have an opportunity to lend our voices to a worthy cause that directly impacts our present and future: Higher Education Day 2017.

Higher Education Day, held on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol, is an annual advocacy rally during the regular session of the Alabama legislature. The rally congregates students from all fourteen public universities in the state to demonstrate their support for higher education funding. It is the largest annual rally in Montgomery and the cornerstone of higher education advocacy in Alabama.

This year is a critical juncture for higher education funding. As a result of The Great Recession, state appropriations for public universities decreased by over 556 million dollars between 2008 and 2013. Only four states cut more public funding for higher education in that time period than Alabama. Though funding has increased gradually since 2013, it is still 36 percent below pre-recession levels.

Furthermore, Alabama's current political climate has the potential to threaten the progress that we have already made. As the state now faces an annual struggle

to finance major items such as Medicaid and an expanding correctional system, some public officials have suggested that diverting revenue bound for Alabama's Education Trust Fund to the state's General Fund is the solution to this problem. We, as beneficiaries of the public education system, should send a message to our legislators. Slashing funds for higher education must be off the table.

This is more than just a matter of principle. Higher education funding directly impacts students' personal finances and quality of education. According to a study conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, average tuition at public universities in Alabama is up by \$3,757 since 2008. There is an inverse relationship between public funding for higher education and tuition rates. As the legislature invests in universities, the cost of attendance incurred by students decreases; accordingly, attending college becomes easier for all students regardless of socioeconomic background.

Moreover, research shows that when schools become reliant on tuition revenue, academic programs and student services suffer. This is because universities cannot increase tuition rates quickly enough to match the growing costs of their programs and services without jeopardizing enrollment rates. These facts are particularly relevant to the University of Montevallo. We are a re-

gional university that serves many students who require financial assistance to attend school. In fact, 38 percent of our student body is Pell eligible. Additionally, state funds go further at UM than at many other public schools because we do not generate as much revenue from auxiliary sources such as football tickets and merchandise.

Higher education is a necessary component of a free and democratic society. A college education teaches people how to think critically and exposes them to diverse perspectives. It also gives them the ability to reason and empathize. These skills are necessary to make our form of government work. I believe it is our civic duty to advocate for higher education because it has cultivated these qualities within us. If you agree, join me in Montgomery on Feb. 23 for Higher Education Day.



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**Be a part of Montgomery's largest advocacy rally and stand up for Higher Education in the state of Alabama!**

**Schedule of Events:**  
10:30—Parade | 11:00—Higher Ed Day Rally  
\*\*Free BBQ Lunch on the South Lawn of the State Capitol following the rally

*SGA is sponsoring buses for the first 100 students to sign up for Higher Education Day. Sign ups will take place weekly in the cafeteria until the day of the rally. Students are responsible for informing their professors of their intent to attend Higher Education Day, as well as for making arrangements to make up what they missed in class.*

# SAG-AFTRA voice actors go on strike

By KATY JOHNSON

Can you imagine a working environment that causes you to bleed from the throat? Where it is normal to have no clue what you are going to be working on that day, or when you are going to be working again? Welcome to the life of a voice actor! Glamorous, right?

When you think about the stars of the entertainment industry, you probably think about your favorite YouTube creator, screen actor or any other pop culture icon whose face is shown on every other media platform. Voice actors, who typically go unseen and who are considered the blue collar workers of Hollywood, are not generally on the mind of the average consumer.

However, video game voice actors in particular have become especially important to this industry over the last few years, enhancing the overall quality standard for the games you love and transforming them into an interactive cinematic experience.

The videogame industry in 2015, according to a 2016 Fortune.com article written by Chris Morris titled, "Level Up! Video Game Industry Revenues Soar in 2015!" grossed more than \$23.5 billion in total revenue. According to Moneynation.com, 2011's "Modern Warfare 3" is the number one selling Call of Duty game to date with \$1.23 billion in sales. The game even earned \$400 million in sales in its first 24 hours.

Despite these achievements, the people working on these games have had to deal with some of the poorest of working conditions, which is why the voice actors of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) decided that enough was enough and that it was time to strike.

This strike, above all else, is about establishing a precedent that the people making these



As of right now, the SAG-AFTRA voice actors have been on strike for 14 weeks. David Robb | Deadline

games deserve, like any other Hollywood actor or human being, a safe and respectful working environment. There are four main issues the union is trying to negotiate with select companies that are refusing to budge.

**Transparency, or lack thereof**

When you audition for a game, or even when you book a game, some companies will outright refuse to tell you the title you are working on. This makes it difficult for the agents of these actors to negotiate in good faith, especially if it's a huge blockbuster

title. Also, if it is a game that is known to have a lot of damaging vocal work, like screaming "grenade" for four hours at a time, or if it potentially has content that the actor is not comfortable with, the actor might benefit from having that info ahead of time so they can pass on it. The actors understand the importance of keeping things under wraps, but not even knowing the title is after you book can create an uneasy environment.

**Vocal stress**

There are voice actors that blow out their voices, risking permanent damage to themselves,

and their career is over one gig. Now, they understand that at the end of a session there will be the standard 15 or 20 minutes of battle cries, attacks and damages, but that's not what the issue is. The issue is when an actor is told that they will be screaming "grenade" or any other assortment of battle cries for four hours at a time. The union would like to limit the standard time of a vocally stressful session like that down to two hours instead of four.

**The need for proper stunt coordinators**

Actors working on motion capture projects, who are not experienced in stunt work, will find themselves in situations where they are risking their life doing stunts that they have had no training to do. Without a proper coordinator there to make sure the stunt is being done safely, there have been several reported cases of injury on set. They are asking for a professional be put in place to ensure the safety of the actors involved in a project.

**The desire for shared prosperity**

The idea is essentially that if a game sells two million copies, then everyone should share in the prosperity of that game. The game would have to sell at least two million copies before anyone would see a paycheck in this category. The amount being asked for every two million copies sold is equivalent to that of a quarter of one session fee. (An actor per session might typically get paid a scale session fee of around \$825.50 for example, so they would only get an additional \$206 dollars if the game sold two million copies). This only applies to the biggest blockbuster titles.

Work is often inconsistent for these actors, meaning sometimes that one paycheck has to sustain them for a week or more. Having

this backend payment system in place would be extremely helpful and doable considering these companies use their voices in not only the games, but in all of the commercials and trailers worldwide to market them with no additional charge. As much as these producers are using their voices to promote the game, when the game makes it big rewarding your team for their efforts does not seem like an unreasonable request.

There has been debate in the media about whether or not this strike is undermining the developers of these games, who work in arguably worse conditions than the actors, but the answer to that question is that the actors are on the side of the developers. The actors are the only players in this game that have an organized union, making it easier for them to stand up to this system. By fighting for fair treatment, they are paving the way for these developers in hopes that they can stand up and fight for better conditions as well.

In an interview with Crispin Freeman, a veteran of the voice acting community and a member of the negotiations committee for the strike, he said he wanted the public to know that "This contract is to protect the little guy. The newbies in the industry who are just going to say 'No I can keep going!' and do permanent damage to themselves. That's not acceptable."

This strike is about showing these companies that the performers and performances they give us in these games that we know and love are important, and deserve to be treated as such. To show support, go to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and use the hashtag #PerformanceMatters to stand in solidarity with the actors, and help make a difference.



# Montevallo United Takes Top Place in United Way Social Media Challenge

PRESS RELEASE, UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



(L to R): Kit Naramore (blf/further), Dr. Amiee Mellon, Matthew Crowson, Madden Saverse, Mollie Wyatt, Taylor Teems, Christel Barnett (blf/further) and Chip Graham (United Way) pose shortly after the Falcon Five received a \$2500 check for winning United Way’s inaugural Social Media Challenge. (Not pictured: Emme Long)

On Jan. 13, a team of University of Montevallo students accepted a \$2500 check for winning United Way of Central Alabama’s inaugural social media challenge.

The competition, sponsored by Birmingham-based marketing firm blr/further, challenged five University teams to utilize the theme #ThisUnitesUs to create a successful social media campaign to broaden United Way of Central

Alabama’s reach to the millennial generation.

The idea to participate was first passed to Dr. Amiee Mellon, assistant professor of marketing and service learning coordinator. Rather than recruit solely from her program, Mellon reached out to Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. Tiffany Wang to also recruit students from communication studies.

According to Mellon, this versatility in degrees and interests gave the team a distinct edge. “They pulled in all the experiences they had from a wonderful public liberal arts school like the University of Montevallo in order to come up with a unique campaign.”

The five UM students: December graduates Emme Long and Taylor Teems along with seniors

Madden Saverse, Matthew Crowson and Mollie Wyatt, began planning the Montevallo United campaign in September.

After successfully presenting their campaign proposal to both United Way and blr/further members, the Falcon Five set to work. The UM students utilized Facebook and Instagram to deliver their message.

The team wanted their

campaign to reflect the natural spirit of giving and philanthropy found on the brick streets of the University.

“Generally, the idea we started with was comparing and contrasting the ideas of United Way to Montevallo,” said Saverse. “Obviously, Montevallo is a really great community that comes together to help each other out. United Way is just that, but on a much larger scale.”

To do this, they highlighted the work of local non-profits like Shelby Emergency Assistance, Arc of Shelby County and Owens House, which all directly benefit from donations to United Way.

According to Chip Graham, the senior vice president of marketing and communications for United Way, the Falcon Five’s focus on local organizations as well as their community-driven message was exactly what his organization was looking for.

On Jan. 24, the team will present their successful campaign to United Way’s board of directors along with other non-profit executives during the organization’s annual meeting.

The students said they hope their work and campaign inspires their peers to participate in non-profit donations and lifelong philanthropy.

“I think it’s important for us to start early on anyway we can, whether it’s a couple of dollars or a couple of hours of service to help these groups who are doing these great things,” said Saverse.



Spotify®

PLAYLIST

NEW YEAR NEW ME



“Did I” - Kehlani

There’s no better feeling in the world than proving your haters wrong, and that’s exactly what Kehlani is doing with this track. With lines like “Did I hurt your feelings when I stunted like that/ Did I hurt your feelings when I hustled like that?,” she proves that she is the Sweet Sexy Savage that her debut album (out January 27) promises.

“Right Here Right Now” - American Authors

A new year is a fresh start, heed American Authors’ advice and seize the moment

“Heavy” - Bird-talker

School has started once again and I’m sure a lot of us are already at our wits’ end, but let’s remember to be thankful that we get to be a student at this time in our lives. Our daily job (I’m sure along with others)

is to just learn. So here’s a good car ride song when you need a fresh perspective on your privilege to be educated.

“Coming Home” - Diddy Dirty Money

This one is all about starting again and forgiving yourself for what’s happened in the past. We all make mistakes. Don’t let that stop you from moving forward.

“Everybody (Backstreet’s Back)” - Backstreet Boys

‘Oh my God, we’re back again!’ This is the ultimate comeback song that no one can listen to without belting out the lyrics and making up your own impromptu boyband dance.

“Life is Worth Living” - Justin Bieber

A positive jam from the album that resurrected JB’s career.

“Alive” - One Direction

I know right? Another boyband on the playlist? But 1D went for a different sound on this track and gave is the perfect song to let loose and enjoy this year. And after a year of feeling like death warmed up, we all deserve to feel even the tiniest bit alive.

“Anything Could Happen” - Ellie Goulding

Let’s try to ring in the new year with as much optimism as possible. It’s a clean slate. You make this year anything you want it to be. What will you choose?

“Mama Said Knock You Out”- LL Cool J

Or you can try a different approach: make sure that everyone knows that this year you’re not taking any BS from anyone for any reason (but no violence please!)

# Guest speaker urges students to fight for justice

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH

Wortham speaks passionately to the audience about the importance of Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy. Jasmyne Ray | The Alabamian

As a part of UM’s annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Student Life hosted Rev. Michael Stewart Wortham, a college and young adult pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Ebenezer was the spiritual home of Martin Luther King Jr. Wortham explained that working there has given him an interesting relationship with the holiday. He then spoke to the audience about the concept of “two Kings”, saying that there is a certain image of King that we are presented with on King’s holiday.

“People will try to revere him instead of be like him,” he said,

using this same concept to explain people’s relationships God. “If we’re not committed to living our lives like Dr. King, then we don’t even need to say his name.”

Wortham stated that King was driven by his faith, and that society often tries to hide that aspect away, along with his work as a democratic-socialist and his confrontation of “the triple evils”: racism, militarism, and materialism.

The main message conveyed was the importance of “getting plugged in.” According to Wortham, the first step for college students to get involved in the fight for justice is to identify what everyone’s main concern is, and

then organize a group.

“Don’t just sit back and provide your Facebook commentary,” Wortham said. “The internet doesn’t need another MLK quote or meme. It needs people to step up.”

One way to get plugged into the fight for justice is to get involved with your local NAACP representatives. Be sure that whatever groups you’re committing yourself to are legitimate and active.

“My hope is that you commit your life to justice,” Wortham said. “Don’t talk about Martin, justice, freedom and liberty unless you’re going to be about justice, freedom and liberty.”

“Read All Over!”

Jokes and riddles provided by your Alabamian friends!

Why do people break into song?

-Because they can’t find the key.

Did you hear about the short fortune teller who escaped from prison?

-He’s a small medium at large.

Who can shave ten times a day, and still have a beard?

I’ll never be rude if you’re kind to me, but I’ll wag my tongue at you everyday. Who am I?

Two brothers we are, we are full all the day, but we hide under your bed and in your closet when we feel empty.

What tastes better than it smells?

ANSWERS:

A barber!

A dog!

Shoes!

A tongue!